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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 KINGST 03289 022120Z 1247
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-07 IO-14
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 ISO-00 IGAE-00 INRE-00
/091 W

[redacted] 022120Z /14

O 022000Z MAY 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2634
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3289

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/2/86 (LAWRENCE, L.) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, OAS, JM
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELECTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 112858, (B) LEBOURGEOIS/HAVERKAMP TELECON

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AN EMBOFF MET WITH PROFESSOR GLADSTONE MILLS, CHAIRMAN OF THE ELECTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC), AND DISCUSSED THE SUGGESTIONS IN THE REFTEL. MILLS WAS INTRIGUED BY THE IDEA OF OAS ASSISTANCE AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT HE KNOWS ORFILA QUITE WELL AND WOULD PROBABLY CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH THE OAS REP HERE.

3. MILLS SAID THAT EAC HAD DECIDED TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG FOR THE DATA-PROCESSING PHASE OF SETTING UP THE ELECTION. HE SAID THAT THE ISLAND LACKED SUFFICIENT KEY PUNCH OPERATORS, AND WITH THE DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE HERE, IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO PRODUCE VOTER LISTS EVEN AFTER TAPES WERE PRODUCED. HE HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE IN THE U.S. IN TWO OR THREE DAYS. THE EAC WILL DISCUSS SOME SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON MAY 5. WE HAVE GIVEN NO COMMITMENTS, OF COURSE, AND THE MATTER OF FINANCING HAS NOT ARISEN AS YET. MILLS SAID THAT THE DELARUE COMPANY FROM THE U.K. WAS PROVIDING FINGERPRINT EQUIPMENT, AND SPECIAL DYES TO BE USED WITH FLUORESCENT LIGHTS TO PRVENT MULTIPLE VOTING.

4. ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN GENERAL, MILLS SAID THAT THE MOST WORRISOME FACTOR NOW IS THE CONTINUING AND INCREASING POLITICAL VIOLENCE. APPROXIMATELY 6,000 ENUMERATORS HAVE TO BE HIRED, AND MANY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO TAKE ON THE JOB. HE DOES, HOWEVER, EXPECT TO HAVE THE NUMERATORS ON BOARD BY THE END OF MAY. BECAUSE OF A LEGAL REQUIREMENT OF TWENTY-ONE DAYS BETWEEN HIRING AND STARTING TO WORK, THE ENUMERATION PHASE WILL NOT GET STARTED UNTIL TOWARD THE END OF JUNE. HE HOPES THIS PHASE WOULD TAKE 4-6 WEEKS, BUT IT COULD TAKE LONGER IF VIOLENCE INTERFERES WITH THE PROCESS. THUS, THE DATA PROCESSING PHASE WOULD START IN EARLY OR MID-JULY. WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE THIS WOULD BE FINISHED AT THE EARLIEST BY MID-AUGUST, AND WITH ASSISTANCE PERHAPS AS EARLY AS LATE JULY. THE PARTIES THEN NEED TIME TO WORK WITH THE LISTS; ERGO [illegible] ELECTION BY LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER (MILLS SAID I SHOULD QUOTE HIM ON THAT AS IT IS A MOST OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATE).

5. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS AT THE U.K. HIGH COMMISSION LATER TODAY.
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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